Timeline of René Descartes' Life

The following are significant events in the life of Descartes:

1596-March 31st, Born in La Haye en Touraine, France (Modern day Descartes, France).

1606-He attends Jesuit college of La Fleche.

1616-Descartes gains doctor of law at the University of Poitiers.

1618-Descartes travels to Holland where he joins the army of Prince Maurice of Nassau.

1619-Descartes travels around Germany and on November 10th in Ulm, dreams of a unified scientific system based on mathematics.

1622-Descartes returns to France, during next few years spends time in Paris, but also travels around Europe.

1628/1629-He composes Rules for the Direction of Mind (Eventually published in 1701).

1628-Descartes argues that only certainty can be the basis of human knowledge and states that he has a method for attaining certainty.

1628-Descartes leaves for Holland where he lives until 1649.

1629-He begins working on The World.

1633-The condemnation of Galileo causes Descartes to abandon his plans to publish The World.

1637-Descartes publishes Discourse on Method, with Optics, Meterology and the Geometry.

1641-Meditations on First Philosophy published with the first six sets of Objections and Replies.

1642-Second edition of the Meditations published along with all seven sets of objections and replies.

1643-Cartesian philosophy condemned at the University of Utrecht.

1644-The Principles of Philosophy published.

1647-Descartes is awarded a pension by the King of France; he publishes Comments on a Certain Broadsheet and begins work on The Description of the Human Body.

1648-He is interviewed by Frans Burman at Egmond-Binnen which leads to the publication of Conversations with Burman.

1649-Travels to Sweden upon the invitation of Queen Christina.

1649-Passions of the Soul is published.

1650-February 11th, Descartes dies in Stockholm, Sweden.